

Memorandum

Brian J. Smith, Chief
Caltrans, District 3
P. O. Box 911
Marysville, CA 95901

Date : May 26, 1989

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: Route 65 Lincoln Bypass, Placer County (file: 03-Pla-65)

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has reviewed your request for information concerning rerouting of a portion of State Route 65 near the City of Lincoln, Placer County (file: 03-Pla-65).

Critical habitat of the project area includes the riparian and stream zone of Auburn Ravine Creek, wetlands associated with numerous intermittent drainages and swales, and vernal pools.

The riparian zones may provide habitat for the Swainson's hawk, a State-listed threatened species, and the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, a Federally-listed threatened species.

Vernal pools in this area may support State- and/or Federally-listed plant species. Presence or absence must be determined by botanical surveys, which we understand from the May 4, 1989 Corps preapplication meeting, are underway.

Additionally, the area maintains a significant number of valley oaks. Preservation of these trees should be given high priority in project planning.

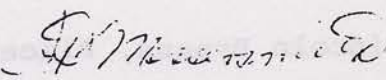
At the preapplication meeting, the Caltrans biologists estimated from their recent survey that about four hundred vernal pools would be impacted by the alignments presented to date. The DFG representative and representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, recommended that additional alternatives be pursued, including a route south of the Lincoln Airport and the alternative of widening the existing route.

We look forward to reviewing the results of your biological surveys, including those for State- and Federally-listed plants and animals. The surveys should cover the proposed project area of all alternatives being considered in order to compare the potential impacts, an important part of our consultation with you under the California Endangered Species Act.

Brian J. Smith

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Thank you for initiating early consultation on this project. If the DFG can be of further assistance, please contact Patricia Perkins, Wildlife Management Supervisor, or Ron Bertram, Associate Wildlife Biologist, telephone (916) 355-7010.


James D. Messersmith
Regional Manager

ORANDUM

: Director, Region II
Attention: Jerry Mench
Department of Fish and Game
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, California 95825

Date: April 12, 1990

File: 03-PLA-65
MP T12.5/R23.5
03807-333800

m : **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION** - Telephone ATSS 457-4027
District 3, P.O. Box 911, Marysville, CA 95901

ject: Route 65, Lincoln Bypass, Placer County-
Coordination For Species of Concern

Caltrans, in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing an expressway/freeway project located in Placer County on State Route 65 between Post Mile (PM) 12.45 near Industrial Avenue and PM 23.5 between Sheridan and the Bear River Bridge (see enclosed Location Map). The project proposes modifying the existing adopted route by bypassing the City of Lincoln, and routing traffic through semi-rural and agricultural areas. This work includes constructing a two or four lane, access-controlled facility (or a combination of the two) on a new alignment. The bypass would likely consist of a 300-foot wide facility, including the median. Four interchanges would be constructed at project start, Moore Road, Nicholas Road, and project terminus.

Twelve alternatives have been proposed for the bypass: A, A3, A4, A5, C1, C2, D1, D2, E, F, T (widening of the existing route), and the no-build alternative (see enclosed Attachments 4 and 5). The E, D2, T, and AFD alternatives have been dropped from further consideration because of: exorbitant cost; failure to meet the basic need and purpose of the project to reduce congestion and improve safety; and/or excessive environmental and socioeconomic impacts.

Caltrans is the lead agency for environmental clearance for this project under NEPA and CEQA. Results of a contractor's work will be used to prepare a Natural Environment Study as backup material for the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the project. This data will also be used to assess project impacts on biological resources.

Wetlands are being delineated according to the Unified Federal Method (as on Attachment 5). We are aware that a 1601 permit will be necessary for any work in Orchard Creek, Ingram Slough, Auburn Ravine, Bunkam Slough, Markam Ravine, Coon Creek, and Yankee Slough.

Director, Region II
Attention: Jerry Mench
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As a part of our environmental evaluation, we are requesting that you identify the fish and wildlife resource concerns you may have with this project, and recommended natural environment studies we may need to undertake. Please include information pertaining to any species or habitat of concern under your jurisdiction that may occur in the project vicinity. Providing us with the boundaries of any conservation easements would be particularly helpful.

Should you need additional information or if you would like to discuss this project further, please contact either Terri Pencovic, District Biologist, telephone (916) 741-4199, or Daryl Noble, Environmental Coordinator, telephone (916) 741-4573.

Original signed by

Steve Kirkpatrick, Chief
Project Studies Branch

Enclosures

cc: Dist. Eng., ACE, Sacramento, w/o encl.

bcc Debbie Martin, BEAK
Terri Pencovic, Env. Br. B
Daryl Noble, Env. Br. B

TP/DN:ks

Filename: PLA65DFG

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

REGION 2

1 NIMBUS ROAD, SUITE A

LINCOLN, CALIFORNIA 95670

(916) 355-7020



May 11, 1990

Mr. Steve Kirkpatrick, Chief
Project Studies Branch
Department of Transportation
District 3
P.O. Box 911
Marysville, CA 95901

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has reviewed your request for fish and wildlife concerns that the DFG may have regarding your proposed freeway project on State Route 65. The project is considering 12 alternatives to routing Route 65 around the City of Lincoln between Sheridan and Lincoln, Placer County.

Significant resources within the project area that should be evaluated as part of your environmental evaluation should include the following:

1. As indicated, you have undertaken a wetlands inventory according to the Unified Federal Method. The DFG additionally considers areas to be wetland habitat when the site contains any one of the three criteria used to inventory wetland habitats using the Federal methodology. Your evaluation should also include these wetlands. All wetlands should be delineated and quantified.
2. All riparian habitats should be delineated and quantified.
3. Vernal pools should be delineated and quantified as part of your wetland inventory but field surveys must be conducted during the appropriate spring flowering period to determine presence or absence of all potential listed plant species that may occur in the area. This survey must be conducted by a qualified botanist.
4. The site should be surveyed for nesting sites and foraging areas for Swainson's hawk (Buteo swainsoni), a State-listed threatened species. Please consult the Natural Diversity Data Base for a listing of nest sites and forage areas including mitigation criteria for the loss of these areas.
5. All riparian areas should be surveyed for presence of valley elderberry longhorn beetle (Desmocercus californica dimorphus), a Federally-listed threatened species.

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6. Riparian zones should be surveyed for the giant garter snake (Thamnophis couchi gigas), a State-listed threatened species.
7. All streams should be evaluated for their use by anadromous fish and specifically for possible use by winter-run chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha), a State-listed endangered and Federally-listed threatened species.

We recommend that each alternative be evaluated for impacts to each of the significant resources identified and that the least environmentally damaging alternative be selected. CEQA requires a discussion of the environmentally superior alternative. Impacts that cannot be avoided either by design or alternative selection must be mitigated to levels below significance.

Mitigation for wetland habitats, including riparian habitat and vernal pools, should be based on the concept of no net loss of acreage or values. This can be accomplished through avoidance or the creation/restoration of additional offsite wetland areas. We prefer to avoid wetland impacts through project design. Mitigation should be in kind, on-site whenever feasible.

Specific mitigation for Swainson's hawk, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, giant garter snake, and winter-run chinook salmon, and other sensitive species found on-site should be developed during compliance with both State and Federal laws pertaining to listed species.

Mitigation for anadromous fishery impacts may be accomplished through appropriate bridge design and/or the incorporation of appropriate fish passage structures.

You should be advised that work within the 100-year flood plain, consisting of but not limited to diversion or obstruction of the natural flow or changes in the channel, bed, or bank of any river, stream, or lake, will require notification to the DFG as required by Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et seq. The notification (with fee), and subsequent agreement, must be completed prior to initiating any such work. Notification to the DFG should be made after the project is approved by the lead agency. The agreement process should not be used in lieu of specific mitigation measures to be included as conditions of project approval by the lead agency.

Mr. Steve Kirkpatrick

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May 11, 1990

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If the DFG can be of further assistance, please contact Mr. Ron Bertram, Associate Wildlife Biologist, or Ms. Patricia Perkins, Wildlife Management Supervisor, telephone (916) 355-7010.

Sincerely,



James D. Messersmith
Regional Manager